

**STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

02 April 2008

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Human Resource Building. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenerton, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman. Alternates present were Ms. Tessa Getchis.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to approve the 06 February minutes as presented. Ms. Getchis provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Mr. Desbonnet, Mr. Swenerton and Mr. Raffo abstaining.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 06 March minutes as amended to correct 2 typographic errors. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Mr. Desbonnet, Mr. Swenerton and Ms. Getchis abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 13 March 2008 from CTOLISP to Mr. Murphy re: Coastal Permit #200701074-Mg public notice costs to the commission.
2. A letter dated 17 March 2008 from the Stonington Development Office to CT Dept. of Agriculture re: resolution to submit/accept the Farm Viability Grant proposal.
3. A letter dated 06 March 2008 from Mr. Murphy to CTOLISP re: comments on Elesh and McGagg dock permits.

BUSINESS

1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*

- a) Area A, B and Outer Quiambog Cove were closed 01-02 March, open 03-07, closed 08-15, open 16-19, closed 20-27 and open 28-31 March.

2) *Scallop Project Update*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported on the process to date, noting that the initial fee of \$500 plus did not account for posting of the public notice, which the commission had been billed \$389.18.
- b) Mr. Swenerton made a **motion** to allocate \$389.18 for public notice publication fees. A second to the motion was provided by Mr. Raffo and the motion was unanimously approved.
- c) Mr. Murphy reported that the due date for comments is 12 April 2008, and that a final verdict, pending any unusual comments, should be rendered shortly thereafter. The marker permit still needs to be applied for, and Mr. Murphy agreed to contact CTDEP a day or so after the public notice session closes.
- d) Mr. Murphy requested all members to hunt around for small anchors, buoys and other gear that might be used in the project, and so keep costs down as much as possible. Steve Plant offered some gear from the Noank Co-op, and Mr. Desbonnet suggested asking local marinas once there is a list of specific needs put together.

- e) Mr. Desbonnet and Ms. Getchis agreed to contact various sources for spawner stock and to cc: each other, and Mr. Murphy, on all correspondence.
- f) Mr. Desbonnet agreed to contact Chris Littlefield at TNC to determine how to proceed in having grant funds put into the commission account, and to cc: Mr. Murphy on all correspondence.

3) *GIS Training Grant from DA*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the Board of Selectmen signed off on the grant that it has now been submitted for consideration to the host agency. Mr. Murphy formally acknowledged the input and efforts of Rob Bessettee in moving the proposal through the system, making things very efficient and “pain free.” The GIS course will be held April 14 and 15 at UConn Avery Point.

4) *Dock Application No. 200401245-MG (Shaffer’s Marina)*

- a) After review, it was agreed that Mr. Murphy would write a letter on behalf of the commission simply noting that it would be preferred that the work commence after early October and that sediment transport into Area A should be minimized during operations, perhaps by doing piling work on incoming tides.

5) *Dock Application No. 200701074-MG (Stonington Shellfish Commission)*

- a) This is the commission application to conduct research in town waters.

6) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Steve Plant noted he is finding lots of *Cladophora* already this season, some of it actually growing on the oysters. Steve also reported that his oysters have been chosen to compete in an “Oyster Taste Off” in Providence, RI during the National Shellfisheries Association meetings in mid April. Steve agreed with the commission to conduct the Public Hearing on his pending aquaculture permit at the June commission meeting.

No further business was discussed. Mr. Banister made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Swenerton. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary